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PRESS RELEASE

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STEPHANIE HERNANDEZ ORDERED TO STAND TRIAL ON MURDER AND ELDER ABUSE CHARGES

Stephanie Hernandez was ordered by the Madera Superior Court today to stand trial for murder. Madera County District Attorney Michael Keitz filed murder and elder abuse charges against Hernandez following the death of her 90 year old Aunt in December 2009.

Hernandez was brought before the Superior Court on charges that she knowingly and willfully caused or permitted her elderly aunt, Maria Lopez, a dependant adult in her care, to suffer unjustifiable physical pain, suffering and death. Following evidence presented during a preliminary hearing, Judge Joseph Soldani ordered today that she stand trial for elder abuse and murder.

Ms. Hernandez came to the attention of the District Attorney's Office through a joint investigation of Maria Lopez's death by the Madera Police Department and the Department of Justice's Bureau of Medi-Cal Fraud and Elder Abuse.

She is to be arraigned on her charges on May 18th, 2010 in Department One of the Madera Superior Court.